Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 05023 191819Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO AMEMBASSY BANGUI IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7991

CONFIDENTIAL PARIS 05023

EXDIS

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM MELONE

E. O. 11652: X-GDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, US, CT

SUBJECT: QUAI VIEW OF US-CAR RELATIONS

IN FOLLOW-UP TO OUR FEB. 17 CONVERSATION WITH HIM, QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA REMOVILLE CALLED ME IN FEB. 19. APPARENTLY BASING HIS COMMENTS ON RECENT CABLES FROM BANGUI, HE SAID THE FRENCH HAVE IMPRESSION THAT BOKASSA HAS THREE MAJOR GRIPES AGAINST US: WE PROVIDE TOO LITTLE AID; EMBASSY EMPLOYEE CALDO GAVE LARGE SUM OF MONEY AT UNSPECIFIED EARLY DATE TO OFFICER WHO ORGANIZED COUP ATTEMPT: AND DIAMOND DISTRIBUTORS ENGAGED IN LARGE-SCALE ILLEGAL OPERATIONS. REMOVILLE AGREED THAT BOKASSA'S DECISION TO RECEIVE YOU SO EARLY AFTER YOUR ARRIVAL WAS A GOOD SIGN AND NOTED THAT BOKASSA HIMSELF DID NOT APPEAR TO HAVE RAISED THE CHARGE OF US INVOLVEMENT IN COUP ATTEMPT. REMOVILLE SUGGESTED THAT GIVEN BOKASSA'S PSYCHOLOGY, THE ARGUMENT THAT THE U.S. WOULD NOT BE STUPID ENOUGH TO INVOLVE ITSELF IN AN ATTACK ON ONE OF ITS BEST FRIENDS ON THE EVE OF YOUR ARRIVAL IN BANGUI WOULD CARRY WEIGHT WITH THE MARSHALL.

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PAGE 02 PARIS 05023 191819Z

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Subject: QUAI VIEW OF US-CAR RELATIONS IN FOLLOW-UP TO OUR FEB. 17 CONVERSATION WITH HIM TAGS: PFOR, US, CT, FR

To: BANGUI

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